

# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 10, 2023*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

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[www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org)

We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

# We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Jeff Deitz

Prelude

*Delight in the Lord*

Ben Logan

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

*You Are Holy*

Imboden and Rhoton

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Call to Worship

We gather here this morning to worship.

**We gather to proclaim the promises and retell the stories.**

We gather to remember who we are as people

**Let us worship!**

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✦ Hymn No. 705

*You Are Holy*

Text & Music: Imboden and Rhoton, 1994

✦ Call to Confession

Let us lay aside the works of evil and put on the armor of goodness. Let us live honorably, putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom we confess now.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Beautiful Savior, you have made your law clear: love. Love one another. Owe one another nothing but love. Do no wrong to a neighbor. But we have not mastered what it is to love. We have fallen short, causing harm to others through careless action and thoughtless lack of action. Forgive us. Teach us how to love more fully, more perfectly, as generously as you love, following your law and fulfilling your will. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He, himself, bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that's good.

Friends, believe the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

GLORIA PATRI  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen

✦ Gloria Patri

## We Share God's Word

Acolyte Recognition

Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer of Illumination

Jeff Deitz

First Scripture

Psalm 149

(p. 583)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“You Are Worth It”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 306

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

Text: Fawcett, 1782  
Music: Nägeli, 1828; arr. Mason, 1845

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

7.218 *The Larger Catechism*

The duties required in the Second Commandment are: the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his Word; particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the Word; the administration and receiving of the sacraments; church government and discipline; the ministry and maintenance thereof; religious fasting; swearing by the name of God; and vowing unto him: as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing all false worship; and according to each one’s place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

*Where Two or Three Are Gathered*  
(Soloists: Cindy Kapp & Deb Owens)

John Purifoy

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 316

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Text: Latin, 8th cent.  
Music: Chapin, 1812

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Fantasia on WEBB*

George J. Webb,  
Arr. Franklin Ritter

**DOXOLOGY**  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**  
Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which you are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

## WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information visit our website at [www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org).

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 1300AM and 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at [www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org) or a phone app is available at [sermon.net](http://sermon.net) (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

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## CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

**Pastor:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Organist:** Jean Mitrosky  
**Director of Music:** Bonnie Champion  
**Treasurer:** Brenda Nesbitt  
**Secretary:** Debra Owens  
**Sexton:** Mike Hetrick  
**Sound Engineer:** Josh Deitz  
**Video Engineer:** Dan Willy

### Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>
John Joy	Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz
Bert Louder	Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp
Jim McConnell	Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt

### Deacons:

<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>
Suellen Gourley	Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis
Cindy Kapp	Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz
Norma Kooman	Mary Swanger	Lori Smith

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Lector:** Jeff Deitz  
**Time with Children:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Director of Music:** Bonnie Champion  
**Organist:** Jean Mitrosky  
**Sound Engineer:** Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp  
**Video Engineer:** Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt  
**Acolytes:** Ruby Collett, Gavin Kunselman, Aubrie Scovel, Emma Willy  
**Ushers in Charge:** Lee Seitz, Mary Swanger

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Randy & Robin Cable, by Pauline Henry.

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

9/3/2023

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$3,155.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$127000</u>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,282.00</b>

### Weekly Donations

Blessing Box	\$300.00
Food Bag Account	\$475.00
Parking Permits	\$150.00
Caring Callers	\$50.00
Men's Fellowship	<u>\$20.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,277.00</b>

## NOTES:

**Monday, September 11**

6:00 p.m. Mission Team, Ministry Central  
 7:00 p.m. Worship Team, Chapel

**Tuesday, September 12**

6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room

**Wednesday, September 13**

4:30 p.m. Food Bag Ministry, Ministry Central  
 7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Cindy Stants' Home  
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

**Thursday, September 14**

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle, Marilyn Fox's Home  
 12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel  
 5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice, Choir Room  
 6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice, Choir Room

**Saturday, September 16**

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Social Hall

**Next Sunday, September 17**

10:00 a.m. Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast, WWCH 1300AM, 94.1FM  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class  
 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday School will resumes today for children. Join us for Bible lessons, crafts, songs, and snack immediately following church in the CE building.**

**Adult Sunday School will resume on October 1st.**

**Acolyte Recognition:** We are taking a few moments during worship this morning to recognize our acolytes. Ruby Collett, Aubrie Scovel, and Emma Willy are graduating from the program this year. Gavin Kunselman remains an acting acolyte. Clara Stants and Jeremy Willy are the incoming class for 2023. We appreciate the important part they play in our service.

**Attention All Singers and Ringers:** It is that time of year where our music program at First Presbyterian Church is gearing up for another season of singing and ringing!

- Vocal Choir: Welcome Back! Practice immediately after Worship in the Choir Room.
- Echoes of Joy and Joyful Bells: We will begin practices this Thurs., Sept. 14 with Echoes at 5 p.m. and Joyful at 6 p.m. If you are unable to attend please let me know.

**Men's Fellowship/Breakfast** is a group of men from the area who share Christian fellowship. Our next breakfast is at 8:00 am in the social hall, Saturday, September 16. Breakfast will be followed by our guest speaker, Pastor Rebecca Mihm, who will share about her trip to Israel. All men are welcome. Please contact Bill Champion with any questions or to let him know you plan to attend, 814-764-3886.

**Rwanda Partnership Presentation and Cookout, September 24th:** Immediately after Worship, Mark Phoebus, who went on the mission trip to Rwanda, will give a presentation about his trip. After Mark's talk, we'll move outside to the Aharrah Pavilion for the cookout. Watch for more details in your bulletin. (The Steeler's game is not until 8:20 p.m., so plan to be with us!) A preview of the folks in Rwanda is in the September/October newsletter.

**Our deepest sympathies** to the family and friends of Herb Thrush who was born on March 12, 1936, joined our church February 8, 2004, and entered the church triumphant on September 4, 2023.

## MEMBER CARE

**Please pray for:**

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Ann Minich, Tom Goble, Randy Cable, Pat McConnell and those who are homebound.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley & John McKinley's relatives: Mary Biser, Charlotte Hartman, Kenneth Daugherty Jr., Ben McKinley, and David Mahle; Carolyn McFarland's relatives: Rick & Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's neighbor, Laurie Dickey; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; Jim & Pat McConnell's friend, Pat Hargest; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; Jeff Deitz's friend, Alexandra Sharrar; Peggy, Dee Wenner's sister-in-law; Dana Solida's friend, Scotty; Jeff Kapp's friend, Chuck; Bill Champion's acquaintance, Dr. Shannon Penland, Bill's friends Tammy & Chuck; the family and friends of Herb Thrush; and Maui
- *Everyone serving in the US Military.*
- *Our faith partners: Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda.*

**Homebound Member of the Week:** Please remember Mary McCamant, Clarion Health Care & Rehab, 999 Heidrick Street, Clarion, PA 16214.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking  
faith  
home

*Love your neighbor as yourself.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God's judgment seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4:5-14	Israel is favored by God
Thursday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Friday	Leviticus 19:9-18	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Romans 13:9 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of goodness and mercy, give us hearts to love and to care for others as you care for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this gift of food strengthen us to delight in your law of love for the sake of all you have created through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you long for the ways of God that teach love and mercy through Jesus Christ.



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SEPTEMBER 10, 2023  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Beloved, God's Chosen*

taking  
faith  
home

### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What news have you seen or heard recently where laws have been broken?
- Jesus said, "love your neighbor as yourself." What makes it hard to love others as you love yourself?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: Romans 13:8-14.*

The law of God was—and is—intended as a gift from God that we may live in peace with one another. The commandments are plain and simple: we should not commit adultery, murder, steal, or covet what others have. The law mirrors the love of God that intends goodness and mercy for people. As Deuteronomy 4:8 states, "[W]hat other great nation has statutes and ordinances, as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?" The law demands right action toward people that is merciful, especially for the less powerful who cannot otherwise protect themselves. Mercy is well summarized by saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Romans 13:9), a reference to Leviticus 19:18 that was quoted by Jesus, Paul, and others in the Bible. The gospel life offers mercy and acts of love for the sake of the health of individuals and communities alike.

*Discuss:* What do you think it means to show mercy through the love and care of others?

*Pray: Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your law and for freeing us to love others as you have loved us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you care for the daily needs of others?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Bible studies, Sunday school, and youth groups are wonderful opportunities to gather to read the Bible, have caring conversations, and learn together. Think or talk about where and how you learn God's word. Psalm 119 is a lovely text that promotes learning God's will and word. *Pray: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen.* (Psalm 119:33-34)



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)